



# Peres: We are strong enough to make peace

"ISRAEL has the military might to bring about a military victory and the diplomatic strength to achieve a diplomatic victory," Prime Minister Shimon Peres told the who's who of Israel's security forces, who gathered yesterday morning at Beit Hanassi to celebrate the holiday.

The leaders of the country's various security arms, past and present, hosted by President Ezer Weizman and joined by three former presidents - Chaim Herzog, Yitzhak Navan, and Ephraim Katzir - met old acquaintances and exchanged memories of over 50 years of wars and military enterprises.

Meanwhile, on the lawns of the presidential residence, 120 outstanding women and men serving in the IDF gathered to receive citations from the president as their proud parents rushed

around with videocameras. Later, the group took a formal picture with Weizman and the military leaders.

The chief of staff and his deputy and almost all the top generals, with the notable exception of the OC Northern Command, appeared to be present. The fighting in Lebanon was clearly uppermost on everyone's mind and cast a certain pall over the festivities.

"We have known harder and more complicated times in the past half century," Weizman told the gathering.

Praising the peace agreements reached with Egypt and Jordan, Weizman said: "Right now it seems impossible to achieve [a similar peace with Syria] because of the obduracy of a nation to the north... There are differences of

opinion between us but I hope that one day we will be able to say how wonderful it is that we have just returned from a visit to Damascus."

He also called on the nation to follow the example of excellence set by the 120 outstanding soldiers.

Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said the 120 "had contributed far and above the call of duty.... They have excelled over a long period, and not in order to be given awards." This excellency sets the standards of a society and a nation.

He sent warm wishes from the IDF to the citizens residing near the confrontation line, particularly those in Kiryat Shmona.

A young paratrooper officer, Gidi Moses, replied on behalf of the soldiers, saying that their most earnest hope was for peace.



One of the youngest new immigrants celebrates his first Independence Day yesterday. Seven families from Argentina arrived yesterday as part of a Jewish Agency program to settle Latin American immigrants in the Negev. (Rafi Dehayah)

## Full turnout of diplomatic corps

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE diplomatic corps - including the ambassadors of Egypt and Jordan - turned out in force yesterday to join in the annual Independence Day reception hosted by President Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, at Beit Hanassi.

"These are uneasy times. It is strange to be celebrating Independence Day while there is fighting in the North," Weizman told the ambassadors, military attaches and clergymen who filled the reception hall after the festivity was moved indoors because of chilly weather.

"I think you'll join with me, the prime minister and foreign minister in praying that it won't take a long time until we reach a cease-fire and quiet and peace return to the Galilee, Lebanon, and the State of Israel," he added. He noted that the presence of so many diplomatic representatives was indicative of world support for Israel.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres flew back to join the celebration after a visit to Kiryat Shmona, where he came under Katyusha fire.

## Petah Tikva youth winner of Bible Quiz

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Daron Shahr of Petah Tikva, who attends Midreshet Ntaam in Pardes Hanna, won this year's International Bible Quiz yesterday, scoring the full 99 points possible in the quiz.

Yohai Even-Haim, 17, of Netivot finished second, a year after his brother Elyada did the same. Shlomi Ben-Adnan, 15, of Beersheba was third, while Yonatan Kieval, 17, of Jerusalem was fourth.

Yehuda Hanles, 15, of the Yeshiva Uni-

versity High School in New York finished fifth. He and Aharon Katz, 15, of Mexico were named the winners from the Diaspora for this year.

A total of 41 youngsters from 22 countries participated in the event.

Among those attending were Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet - who won the quiz 36 years ago - Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, Knesset Speaker Shevah

Weiss, and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

Peres said, "the Bible is the Jewish people's identity card, and the source of its faith, moral values, and ties to Zion. The Jewish people were unsurpassed in creating spiritual assets. The Bible represents the pride and the uniqueness of the Jewish people."

This year's subject was Jerusalem 3000, along with work and trade in the Bible. In

light of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, an additional question was added to the quiz about tolerance and the unity of the people in the Bible.

Shahr, who will enter a hesder yeshiva after he finishes school and wants to be an accountant, said after winning the contest: "I prepared for the quiz for a year. The questions were quite hard. Before the results were announced, I figured I'd finish in one of the first three spots." (tm)

## Israel Prizes awarded at end of celebrations

THE Israel Prizes were awarded to 14 recipients last night at a festive ceremony in Jerusalem at the conclusion of Independence Day celebrations.

This year's award winners included former Supreme Court justice Meir Shamgar, Prof. Marcel Jacques Dubois, Prof. Shlomo Avineri, Prof. Yehuda Ratzaby, Prof. Chana Shmeruk, Prof. Shimon Sandbank, Prof. Ilan Chet, Prof. Moshe Piamanta, Prof. Yehzekel Stein, Prof. Moshe Barasch, Prof. Meir Sternberg, playwright Nissim Aloni, dancer and choreographer Moshe Efrati, and

set designer Arye Navon.

Arts Minister Shulamit Aloni said that "anly people with anachronistic ways of thinking still frighten us with fears from the past, still point to crazed acts of terror as a mortal danger and still play on the feeling of being a victim and persecuted."

She spoke in favor of a constitution in Israel and increasing awareness of protecting human rights. "No constitution, as good as it may be, will be effective without outstanding people who lead us and act among us," she said. (tm)

## Jerusalem high school mourns its fallen

BILL HUTMAN

TWO Beit Hinnach pupils solemnly read out name after name of pupils and graduates killed in action or in terrorist attacks since 1948, at the start of the Remembrance Day ceremony on Tuesday at the Jerusalem high school.

They read 75 names in all, with seriousness and emotion befitting the occasion. But they could hold back their emotions no longer and began to cry as they came to the eight who were killed in the last year, including six in the two bus No. 18 suicide bomb attacks.

"Each year we gather for this ceremony, only to hope that next year it will be different," Mayor Ehud Olmert told the large crowd of pupils and families of

the fallen. "Each year we come together with the bereaved families. There are no words that can express our feelings."

"This day returns us to the reality of life in this country, to the sorrow, but also to the hope. The fallen were fighting for the right to live in peace, to live in peace at home with their families. That is what we are fighting for, and which we will continue to fight for until it is achieved," Olmert said.

"Once the battles were far away, along the borders or beyond. But now our children fall in the cities, on buses, near their schools," the mayor said. What

he did not say, but was understood by all, was that among those he was referring to were the six killed in the suicide bombings.

"We will never forget you," said one of the pupils who took the stage as part of the musical performances and short reading that made up the ceremony.

At the start of the ceremony, the flag was lowered to half-mast and a memorial torch was lit by a pupil. Nearby sat the friends and families of the fallen.

"The winds of peace are only starting to be felt in our region," principal Gidon Shahr said. "To our sorrow, so many of our pupils had to fall at the beginning of the road to peace."

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
and  
JDC - Israel  
extend heartfelt condolences to  
**Susan Brettschneider**  
on the loss of her  
**FATHER**  
May you be comforted among the mourners of  
Zion and Jerusalem

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
and  
JDC - Israel  
extend heartfelt condolences to  
**Zvi Sapsowitz**  
on the loss of his  
**MOTHER**  
May you be comforted among the mourners of  
Zion and Jerusalem

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of  
our beloved husband and father  
**WILLIAM MARTON**  
שמואל זאב ז"ל  
Anna Marton  
Felga and Nechmen Kahana  
Judy and Shlomo Wohlgenuth  
Grandchildren and great-grandchildren  
Shiva at 23b Ahad Ha'am, Jerusalem

With deep sorrow we mourn the passing of our dear  
father, grandfather and great-grandfather  
**ARMIN (Zvi Yehuda) KRAUSZ ז"ל**  
(Formerly of Sheffield, England)  
Shiva at Diskin St., 11/46 Jerusalem,  
until Monday morning.  
The Family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear  
**LEAH COLBI ז"ל**  
The funeral took place on Tuesday, 23 April, 1996.  
Shiva at the deceased's home, Bialik 3, Beit Hakerem, Jerusalem.  
Her Husband: Dr. Shaul Paolo Colbi  
her brother: Menahem El-Roy  
her daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren.

## Gov't may recognize Palestinian property claims

BILL HUTMAN

FOREIGN Ministry legal adviser Yoel Singer has stated the government will discuss Palestinian property claims in Israel, particularly in west Jerusalem, where Palestinians have been gathering data in recent months to back up claims in land abandoned in 1948.

Singer, in a recent letter to attorney Avigdor Feldman, said the issue of Palestinian property claims, as well as Jewish claims on property left behind when they fled from Arab lands, would be decided in bilateral talks between the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, and Israel.

Singer was replying to a request by Feldman for a clarification concerning the Jordanian-Israeli peace accord. Feldman is representing several Palestinians living in Jordan who abandoned property in west Jerusalem during the War of Independence.

"Our position is that in the framework of the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord the Israeli government did not take on any responsibility to solve the problem of refugee property, or to retroactively cancel the Abandoned Properties Law," Singer wrote.

Under the Abandoned Properties Law, many homes, businesses, and undeveloped tracts in west Jerusalem abandoned by Palestinians because of the war became state property, and some were put up for sale. Palestinians

want the property returned or compensation for it.

Feldman said he is considering a court appeal on the matter, on the grounds that the Abandoned Properties Law is based on the definition of Jordan as an "enemy country," a status that should have been changed with the signing of the peace agreement.

Palestinian groups claim to have documented over 2,000 west Jerusalem properties abandoned by Palestinians during the war. Attorney Khader Shkirat, head of the Jerusalem-based Land and Water Authority, recently returned from Amman, where he began coordinating efforts with the Jordanian authorities and Palestinians there.

Singer said in the letter that Jordan raised the issue of abandoned property in Jerusalem during the peace talks, but was persuaded to postpone discussing it.

"During the talks, our representatives reiterated the point that for Israel there exists the problem of Jewish properties in Arab lands left behind by Jews who left their homes because of the War of Independence, and these claims counter the possible Palestinian claims," Singer said.

"In light of this, the Israeli representatives argued during the talks that there is no possibility to discuss only part of the issue, but only the issue in its entirety," he said.

## Clinton: Lebanon fighting has gone on too long

HILLEL KUTLER  
WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton said yesterday he has received some encouraging news from the region and is hopeful a cease-fire is "quite close," but that no announcement is imminent.

"We support whatever can be done to end the violence as soon as possible, and that's what Secretary Christopher is working on in the Middle East today," Clinton told reporters at the beginning of an Oval Office meeting with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

"I think every thinking, feeling person knows that this has gone on way too long and it needs to stop."

The US will provide emergency aid to Beirut in light of the damage Lebanon has suffered, Clinton said.

"We don't believe there should be any foreign troops in Lebanon. The Lebanese people have been subjected to all kinds of problems - frankly because of the influence of outside forces in the country."

"But our position has been consistent, that we think the only way to reestablish Lebanese sovereignty is to have a comprehensive resolution of the problems in the region."

"I'd like to see Lebanon completely sovereign and free and independent. And if Lebanon were completely sovereign, free and independent, none of this would have happened," he said.

Clinton said he did not know whether Syrian President Hafez Assad had snubbed Warrea Christopher when he decided not to meet with the secretary of state on Tuesday.

## Labor drops clauses on Golan, Palestinian state

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Labor Party's convention is to meet today in Tel Aviv to approve the party's platform, which omits clauses on the security importance of the Golan Heights and the negotiation of a Palestinian state that were in the 1992 platform.

The platform for the 14th Knesset includes a clause to submit the permanent settlement with the Palestinians and Syria to a referendum, after the government achieves the best agreements possible.

The party's platform committee, headed by Justice Minister David Liba'i, decided not to include the section formulated on Jerusalem - a proposal to set up independent municipal boroughs in Jerusalem which would be subject in the united city's municipality.

Liba'i said he rejected that section to prevent interpretations that the borough plan is a preparation to divide Jerusalem. He noted the platform emphasizes that Jerusalem will remain united and under Israeli sovereignty.

The platform will include a number of proposals made by Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet, head of the social platform committee, despite the opposition of Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

The Treasury said Shetreet's proposals involve huge expenses which the government can not afford, and it would be irresponsible to include them in the platform.

Shetreet said if Labor were to reject these recommendations, it might lose significant support among the lower-income voters.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Bomb explodes in eastern Jerusalem**  
A small bomb exploded yesterday morning in east Jerusalem, slightly damaging a car parked nearby. Police said they believe the bomb, which had been planted near the Interior Ministry's Population Administration Bureau, was meant to disrupt Independence Day celebrations. Police searched the vicinity but did not find any other bombs. *tm*

**25 injured by stray fireworks**  
Twenty-five people were slightly injured on Tuesday night when fireworks landed on the roof of a concessions truck parked near the amphitheater in Beit Shemesh. Magen David Adom workers cared for them at the scene and then sent 14 of them to Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem to be treated for smoke inhalation. All but two were released yesterday. *tm*

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# Report: America supreme now but China may challenge

LONDON (AP) - The United States has again become the key player on the world stage but it may face competition from China for global influence in the next century, a leading think tank said yesterday.

Two years ago, the International Institute for Strategic Studies complained that the United States and the West were suffering from "strategic arthritis." But in its *Strategic Survey 1995-96*, the institute said America has started acting like a superpower, though a reluctant one.

It applauded the Clinton administration for helping to "put out fires" in Bosnia, the Middle East, Northern Ireland and Asia with diplomatic and military leadership.

In the two most crucial instances, Washington put troops in Bosnia which provided an "intimidating presence" on the ground and sent two aircraft carrier battle groups close to Taiwan to monitor threatening Chinese maneuvers in "a classic show of gauchet diplomacy," said institute director John Chipman.

"Putting out fires, however, is a long-term procedure," said the research institute, which is independent and privately financed.

The fire fighter must remain long enough to ensure that the embers have stopped smoldering or the fire rekindles. This has already proved the case in Northern Ireland and the Middle East, and it threatens to happen in Bosnia, East Asia and perhaps even Haiti as well," it said.

Terrorism also poses a serious challenge to achieving peace in the Middle East and Northern Ireland, the institute said, and the best hope to combat it is for people who desire peace to expose terrorists living in their midst.

The institute warned that domestic pressure in the United States to retreat from world affairs, particularly among Republicans, could put US global leadership in danger.

"It is an open question whether the United States, with its cost-cutting and unilateralist Congress, fickle public opinion and forthcoming presidential elections, will be able to provide the steady leadership and enduring commitment that the world clearly still requires," it said.

Chipman said Russia, China and many regionally strong nations also sought "to play and assert important roles" in the past year.

"China holds the key to regional stability in Asia, and may become a peer competitor with the United States for global influence in the next century," the institute's survey said.

"Determined military reform coupled with sustained investment over at least two decades could conceivably transform China into a formidable military power, certainly regionally, if not globally," it said.

The transition to democracy in Russia suffered setbacks this year, with communists gaining on reformers in parliament and the invasion of Chechnya complicating moves toward democracy, the institute said.

The outcome of Russia's presidential elections in June "will be important for the West and even more important for the stability and pace of economic reform in Russia," Chipman said.

"There have been many errors made by the current regime and the country will remain a mess for a very long time, in a very long transition," he said.

# Dead Chechen leader Dudayev buried

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The killing of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev in a rocket strike by Russian forces was confirmed yesterday, throwing a question mark over the independence struggle and prospects for peace.

Shamil Basayev, a top rebel field commander, announced Dudayev's death on rebel television and said Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, regarded as a hardliner, had been elected by the rebel military council as new leader.

Yandarbiyev vowed to keep fighting for independence, Russia's *Izar-Tass* reported.

Analysts were divided on whether Dudayev's death will help President Boris Yeltsin achieve a peaceful settlement - which would help his re-election in Russia's June 16 poll - or steel his followers to fight on, perhaps launching revenge attacks.

The 52-year-old former Soviet air force general was buried yesterday in an unspecified village in southern Chechnya. The funeral was attended by Yandarbiyev, *Izar-Tass* reported.

Dudayev, whose defiance had rallied the rebels and heaped humiliations on Moscow for 16 months, was hit by a Russian rocket in a field near the village of Gekhi-Chu, about 30 km south-

west of the capital Grozny, according to reports.

Mystery had surrounded his death, initially denied by some rebel officials.

The appointment of Yandarbiyev, 44, a literary scholar who had been vice-president of the self-proclaimed Republic of Ichkeria, might make peace as elusive as ever, analysts said.

But if chief-of-staff Aslan Maskhadov, who has been involved in direct talks with the Russian military and is seen as a moderate, comes to the fore, this would help the chances of a negotiated settlement, analysts said.

More than 30,000 people including Chechen civilians and many Russian and rebel fighters have died in 16 months of fighting.

The neatly-dressed, moustachioed Dudayev was a natural leader and skilled soldier, a symbol uniting different shades of commitment to independence.

According to an Interior Ministry source, Dudayev was killed in retribution for an ambush last week in which Chechen fighters were reported to have killed up to 90 Russian servicemen.

The Russian commander in Chechnya, General Vyacheslav Tikhonov, said Russian forces were not involved in the death.

"Federal forces had nothing to do with the death of Dzhokhar Dudayev," he told *Tass*.

But the source said Russian forces had conducted rocket and bomb strikes on several rebel bases, one outside the village of Gekhi-Chu, where Dudayev died.

The highly placed Interior Ministry source said: "Dzhokhar Dudayev was a victim of an act of retaliation for destroying convoy of the Moscow military district."

The source said up to 200 rebel fighters had been killed in air raids aimed at destroying six or seven Dudayev bases.

Dudayev, who had long evaded death and capture, was making a satellite telephone call about mediation in the crisis when he was killed by a rocket.

## Gorbachev attacked during campaign

MOSCOW (AP) - A drunken man attacked former Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev yesterday during a campaign trip in Omsk, Siberia, police said.

Gorbachev's office in Moscow had initially said an attempt had been made on Gorbachev's life.

But police in Omsk said a 29-year-old unemployed man slapped Gorbachev in the face as he was walking into a hall to give a speech. Bodyguards grabbed the man and handed him to police, said police spokesman Anatoly Logvinenko.

Gorbachev, 65, appeared shaken by the incident. He canceled the speech and left immediately for the airport, Logvinenko said.

He said the man had been discharged from the army for psychological instability.

During the attack, the man blamed Gorbachev for the fact that he lost his job as a result of Gorbachev's reforms, Logvinenko said. He said the man did not belong to any political group.

Before the incident, Gorbachev visited a residential area and chatted with voters in the street.

A visit to Omsk was a part of Siberian campaign trip in advance of the June presidential election.

With polls giving him less than 1 percent of the vote, Gorbachev is considered a long-shot in the hotly contested race.

## South Africa's truth commission faces court challenges

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - Two South African judges considering separate challenges to the "truth commission" on human rights abuses from those for and against white rule yesterday asked them to seek out-of-court agreements.

Families of three renowned activists slain by state police including black activist Steve Biko earlier launched action in the Cape Supreme Court to stop the commission granting amnesty, saying this violated their human rights.

On the other side of the old apartheid divide, two former security policemen also turned to the courts to stop a mother of an anti-apartheid activist from implicating them in his murder.

Court Judge President Gerald Friedman, hearing the first case,

asked lawyers for the families of Biko, slain in 1977, lawyer Griffiths Mxenge, killed in 1981, and ANC activist Fabian Ribeiro, killed in 1986, to try to reach a private settlement with the truth commission's lawyers.

Late yesterday afternoon lawyer Modise Khoza, acting for the families, said the hearing had been postponed to today with the understanding that no amnesties would be granted until the matter was settled or decided by court.

Judge Edwin King, hearing a request by ex-policemen Major General Nicolaas van Rensburg and Brigadier Jan du Preez to stop testimony by Joyce Minkhulu, who intends to implicate them in her son Siphwe's 1982 death, also asked for an agreement.

## Jackie Onassis's life in blockbuster auction

NEW YORK (AP) - They're selling the estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis piece by piece, and the prices are sky-high: nearly \$50,000 for a tape measure, half a million for a humidifier, and, yesterday, a \$9,200 set of baskets.

Sotheby's four-day auction is for hundreds of objects - including furniture, china, books and artwork - from the estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

The crowd gasped as prices soared, most items selling for well over their presale estimates. A walnut cigar humidifier given to John F. Kennedy by entertainer Milton Berle was expected to sell for \$2,000 to \$2,500. It sold for \$574,500.

An oak rocking chair JFK used in the White House fetched \$442,500. John Jr.'s high chair and Caroline Kennedy's rocking horse each fetched \$85,000.

Yesterday's sale continued with spectacular prices for mundane items. A set of wicker baskets - like those in any decent housewares store - went for

\$9,200. The presale estimate was \$200. A decorated plant-holder from Jackie's White House dressing room sold for \$12,650; the presale price was \$150.

A metal plate with a decorative border engraved with the initials "JLKBK," valued at \$50 to \$100, was the subject of frenzied bidding and finally went for \$25,300. And tiny Chinese porcelain dishes, valued at \$100 to \$150 each, went for \$6,900 apiece. Before the sale, many fans of modest income had expressed the hope that the china would remain within their means.

"The sale started and it just took off by itself," said auctioneer Diana Brooks, Sotheby's president and chief executive officer.

The total so far was \$4.5 million; Sotheby's conservative estimate had been \$516,000 to \$718,000. The prices include Sotheby's commission, which is 15 percent of the first \$50,000 and 10 percent of anything above that amount.

## Queen Elizabeth scores victory over British media

LONDON (Reuters) - Queen Elizabeth scored a notable victory over the British press on Wednesday when a media watchdog upheld her first-ever complaint, over a claim she was Britain's wealthiest person.

The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) said the magazine *BusinessAge* had failed to check its facts and presented speculation about the queen's fortune as established fact.

In its September 1995 edition, the magazine estimated the queen was worth £2.2 billion pounds and put her at the top of its list of Britain's 500 richest people.

It widened a previous estimate of £158-million to include palaces, the monarch's art collection and jewels, excluding the crown jewels held in the Tower of London.

Other experts believe these are held in trust for the nation and cannot be sold for personal gain.

*BusinessAge* on Wednesday stood by its valuation and called on the queen to be more open about her wealth.

Buckingham Palace lodged a complaint with the commission

in November after the magazine, with a circulation of around 60,000, declined to apologize for what the palace called an inaccurate and misleading report.

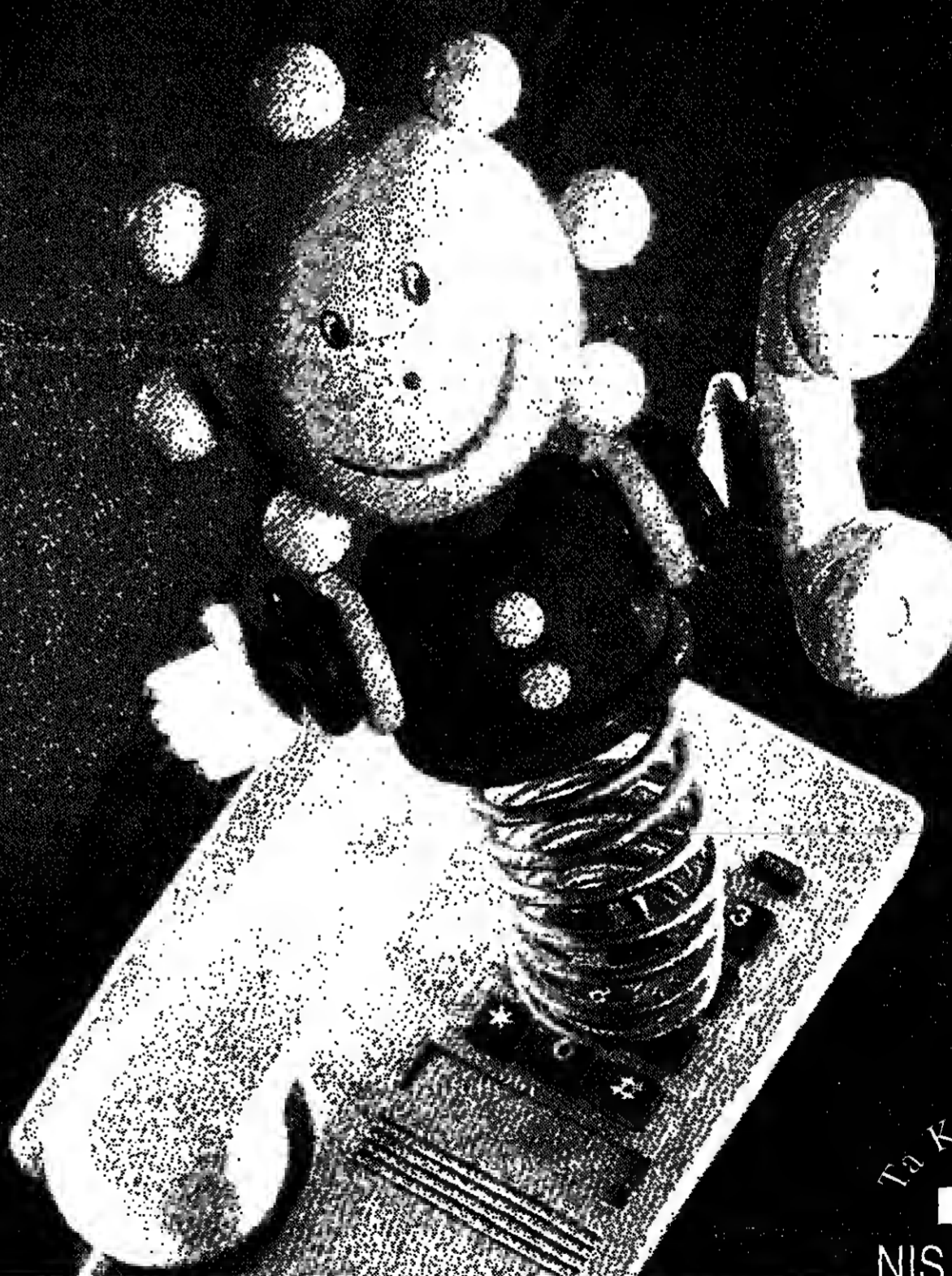
Buckingham Palace said it welcomed the adjudication, while media experts said the verdict might rule out future estimates of her wealth. In 1993 the queen agreed to pay income tax for the first time but details of her wealth and its sources remain private.

"The PCC's adjudication is marginal and peripheral as to the entire issue of the valuation of the queen's wealth. The PCC has not criticised our valuation - it has criticised certain aspects of its presentation," editor Peter Kirwan said.

Another survey by the *Sunday Times* this month estimated the queen was worth £450 million, ranking 26th in Britain's wealth list.

The queen, who turned 70 at the weekend without ceremonial festivity, has ordered cutbacks in the royal lifestyle as the monarchy slips in public esteem and the palace has shown more sensitivity to increasing press criticism.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

# TRAVELER

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1996

Top: Zebras ("donkeys with pajamas," says safari driver Emmanuel) are part of an array of wildlife inside the caldera, which also includes lions, leopards, elephants, hippos and jackals.  
Middle: Tourists can get up close and personal with lions.  
Bottom: The endangered black rhino is still pursued by poachers for its precious horns.

An Up Close Look at

# Africa's Amazing Animals

By Stanton H. Patty

**N**GORONGORO CRATER, Tanzania—"Simba!" whispered Emmanuel, the safari driver. Just 40 feet away, almost hidden in a patch of tall grass, was a lioness with four cubs.

"You must be very quiet," Emmanuel said. The babies were nursing. Visitors watched from their "pop-top" safari rig.

Theo the lioness stretched and yawned. Feeding time was over. The cubs wrestled and played tug-of-war with a stick.

It was as if we were invisible. "They know we are here, but they have no fear," Emmanuel said.

Ngorongoro was working its magic. This volcanic crater in northern Tanzania is one of the world's greatest wildlife sanctuaries. Roaming its 10-mile-wide floor are more than 30,000

bone-jarring dirt roads, Ngorongoro ("en-goro-en-goro") is not included in all itineraries arranged by the 100 or so safari companies that operate through Tanzania and neighboring Kenya.

The great caldera of Ngorongoro—all that remains of a 15,000-foot-high volcano that exploded millions of years ago—is about 300 miles south and east of Nairobi, East Africa's safari hub.

Getting here involves either a rugged overland trip from Nairobi or a more tolerable combination of air-taxi and land travel.

Micato Safaris, with offices in New York and Nairobi, knows the way. The family that owns Micato has been in business here since the turn of the century.

To set the scene: It is dawn in Ngorongoro. First there are bird songs. It is as if an orchestra is tuning up for the overture.

Then there is a knock on the door of your room at the Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge on the crater rim. A waiter offers a tray with a pot of coffee.

Pull up a chair—a rocking chair. The room seems perched on the very lip of the crater, with picture windows and rocking chairs for two.

Open the curtains. Do you hear a fanfare? First rays of the sun flood the crater with golden light. You can see the faint lines of game trails far below.

It must be something like the first glimpse of a new planet for space travelers.

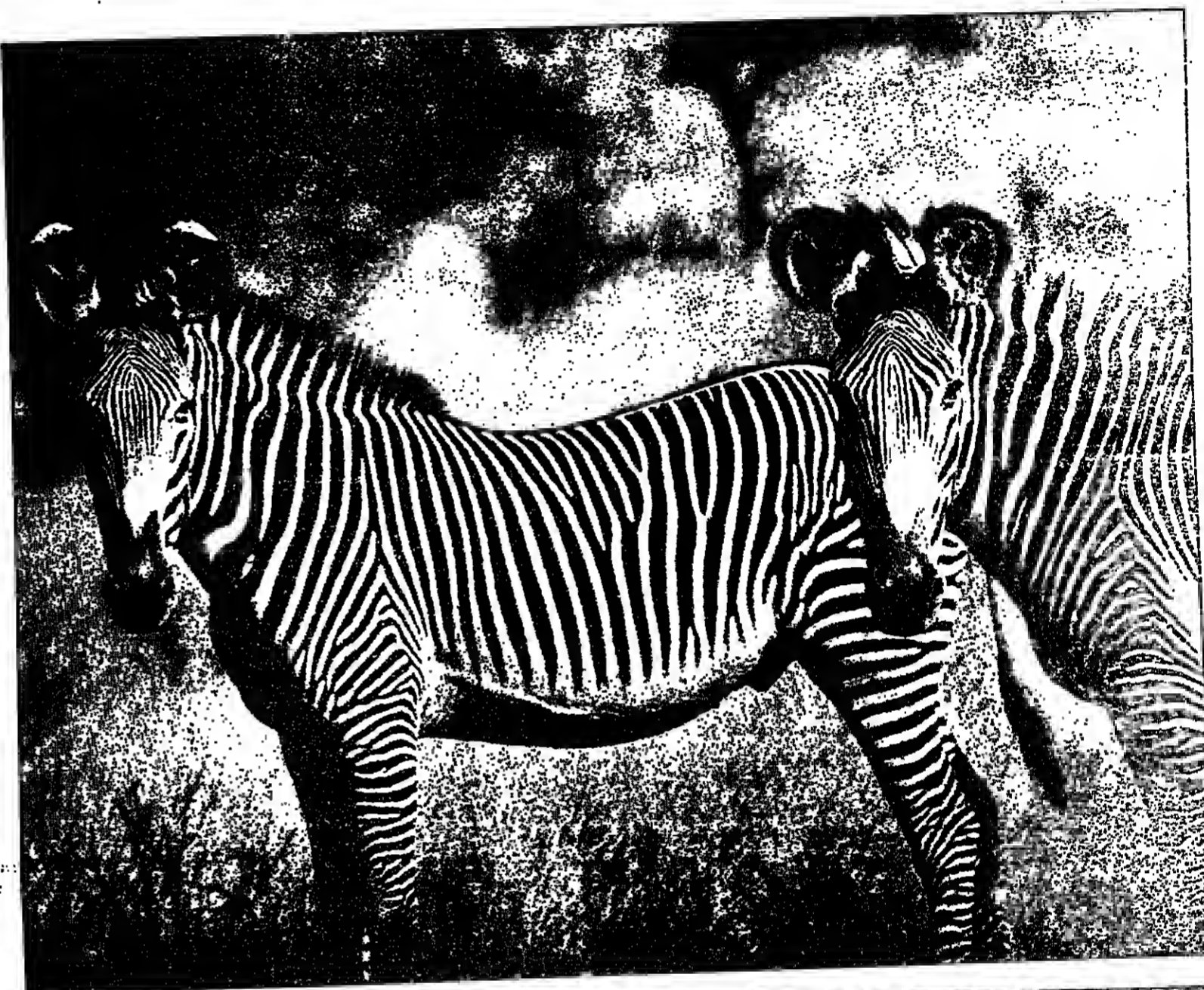
In a way, Ngorongoro is another world—a world of born-free, still-free animals surging over grasslands and marshes and

forests inside the crater.

This no zoo. It's real life—where the big cats hunt down wildebeests, zebras and gazelles for meals, where bull elephants crash through acacia trees as if they were sticks of kindling, where poachers still pursue beleaguered rhinos for their precious horns.

The animals are not trapped in the crater. Some migrate to and from Tanzania's famed Serengeti plains. But most stay because of Ngorongoro's dependable sup-

Continued on page 2



Photos by Stanton H. Patty

animals . . . lions, elephants, rhinos, hippos, leopards, cheetahs, Cape buffalo, wildebeests, zebras, gazelles, hyenas, jackals, monkeys, baboons and more . . . and almost 200 species of birds, ranging from eagles to flamingos, from cranes to ostriches. This may be the ultimate safari destination. "If you have only one day in your life to visit an African game park, that day should be spent at Ngorongoro," writes Algeo Bechky, author of *Adventuring in East Africa*. But because of its relatively remote site at the end of



Zebras' stripes protect these animals from predators.

the soil for crops.

A buffalo carcass from a recent kill putrefies in the hot sun. A side-striped jackal, an efficient scavenger, rests nearby. Then a crested crane parades across the road like a beauty queen.

"Show time!" says a visitor. Scores of zebras and wildebeests are grazing together in a field of grass the color of old gold. An hours-old zebra, legs still wobbly, stays close to its mother.

The zebras ("donkeys with pajamas," says Emmanuel), and the humpbacked wildebeests with their comical gray beards have a symbiotic relationship. The wildebeests crop the top part of the grass for its high-protein yield. Then the zebras can munch on the lower portions for the high fiber needed for their diets. Teamwork.

Two endangered black rhinos watch warily as the safari wagons pass. They have reason to be cautious. Recent poaching here—by those entrusted with protection of the rhinos,

guides say—has reduced the crater count from 26 to 22.

Nearby is a pond with 20 hippos half-submerged, like fat logs, in a cool-water pond. A court of pretty birds—Egyptian geese, sacred ibis and egrets—decorates the shoreline.

Down the trail is a lake turned pink with masses of flamingos. And across the way three cranky, old Cape Buffalo are rolling in mud to shed pesky ticks and flies.

Camera-shy warthogs, armed with wicked tusks, waddle across the savanna. Thompson's gazelles prance as if on springs. A tawny eagle watches from a treetop by a pool with islets of floating papyrus.

Then, just when you think you've seen it all (and the film supply is getting skimpy), there is a roadside scene for the memory book.

Lions are lounging around two parked safari rigs—yawning, dozing, seeking cover from the blazing mid-day sun. We counted nine in all.

A heart-pounding encounter for passengers with eye-to-eye lion views. But old stuff to Emmanuel and the other guides.

"The lions are just being lazy," says Emmanuel. "They like the shade."

Later, back at the lodge, you gaze down on the crater as the African sun sets the clouds afire, then falls beyond the horizon.

Curtain down. A full moon, a golden coin, rises over Ngorongoro. By now, the lioness has hidden her four cubs in the tall grass and set off to find them a meal. Restless zebras and wildebeests and gazelles are on guard against the hungry cats.

Once again, Ngorongoro belongs to the night.

Vancouver, Washington-based writer Stanton H. Parry is the retired assistant travel editor of The Seattle Times. His trip was sponsored by Micato Safaris.



Elephants and a host of other animals can be seen at the wildlife preserve at Ngorongoro Crater.

Photos by Stanton H. Parry

Animals From page 1

ply of fresh water. The caldera was formed when the spent volcano's walls collapsed inward. The rim is at an elevation of about 7,500 feet. The 102-square-mile crater floor is 2,000 feet below. Only four-wheel-drive vehicles are able to navigate crater trails for the safari "game drives." The Land Rovers are fitted with roomy roof hatches for cameras and binoculars. Will you see Africa's "Big Five" species this day—lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, Cape buffalo? Carry plenty of film. The action is non-

stop: A lion king is silhouetted on a distant ridge. The sentry lion is watching a herd of wildebeest grazing nearby. "Simba!" says Emmanuel, calling out the Swahili word for lion. We will hear it often before the day is over. Ostriches are foraging for seeds in a charred strip of open savanna. A wildfire burned here the other day, a reminder that Ngorongoro is not for animals alone. Once the crater was home to the Masai, the noble nomads of East Africa. Wildlife-conservation officials are prodding them away from the crater, but the Masai persist. Sometimes they start grass fires to prepare

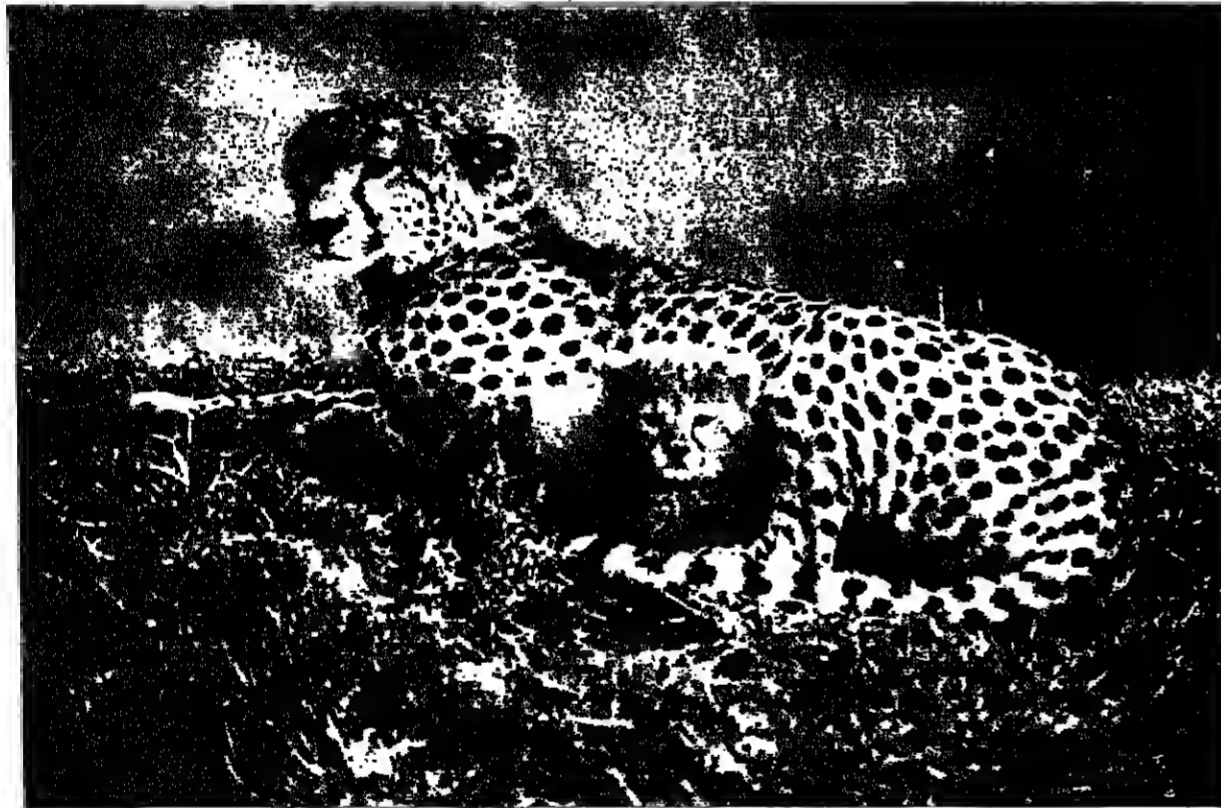
WHEN ON A SAFARI

GENERAL: Tanzania's Ngorongoro Crater is featured in safari packages with Micato Safaris that combine several wildlife parks in Tanzania and Kenya. The escorted safaris

begin and end in Nairobi, Kenya's capital. Several packages also include a stay at the posh Mount Kenya Safari Club, founded by William Holden, the late actor, and his friends.

A typical 12-day Kenya-Tanzania safari—including deluxe lodges and all meals while on safari—is priced at \$2,440 a person. Also available is an 11-day package, priced at \$1,790. Air fare for international flights is additional. Micato presently is quoting round-trip tour-based fares between Chicago and Nairobi with Lufthansa German Airlines from \$1,879 to \$1,997, depending on the season. Lufthansa is the carrier for tours operated by Micato.

U.S. Suggestion: change as little currency as possible. Most of the hotels and lodges on the Micato circuit accept major credit cards. Some shops in Nairobi do, too, but may tack on a surcharge of five or six per cent when credit cards are used.



INOCULATIONS: Tanzania requires a yellow-fever certificate. Anti-malaria tablets are recommended for both countries. Public-health agencies here may suggest other precautions.

SHOPPING: So-so. Best buys are wood carvings and native costume jewelry. Surprise; peddlers in villages and along country roads ask outrageously high prices for their wares and are unwilling to bargain much.

WATER: Rely on bottled water, even for brushing teeth. But expect to pay up to \$3 and \$4 U.S. per liter outside Nairobi.

Tailor-made safari outfits are priced reasonably in Nairobi. Recommended: Rentford Drapers, Ltd., in Muindi Mbingu Street. Figure \$125 to \$150 for an outfit with vest, shirt and trousers.

WEATHER: Temperatures range from the 70s to the 90s by day; low 50s at night. However, temperatures may be cooler in high-elevation areas. Warmest months are December through March. Coolest are July and August. Heaviest rains occur in April in both countries. Shorter rains usually occur in late October and early November in Kenya; November and December in Tanzania.

WHAT TO PACK: Sun-screen, lip balm, flashlight (electricity is turned off late at night at some wildlife lodges), extra batteries, shorts and other light clothing for day touring, sweaters for cool evenings, sturdy walking shoes, alarm clock, insect repellent, sun glasses, and plenty of film, including 400 ASA film for early-morning and late-afternoon game drives. You'll want a telephoto lens (at least 200-millimeters) for wildlife photography. Carry some large zip-type plastic bags to protect cameras from dust.

ELECTRICITY: 220 volts.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Micato Safaris, 15 West 26th Street, New York, New York 10010; (001) 212/545-7111.

CURRENCY: Exchange rates fluctuate. Figure about 52 Kenya shillings to \$1 U.S.; 500 Tanzanian shillings to \$1

RAIN-FOREST REPORT

Anyone who yearns to venture deep into the world's exotic rain forests should read Green Cathedrals: A Wayward Traveler in the Rain Forest by Brian Alexander (Lyons & Burford). It's a treat for both adventurous and armchair travelers. Alexander is a travel writer who admits that his love affair with rain forests was sparked as a child in Ohio watching "Tarzan" movies. As a starry-eyed young adventurer he sets off in search of the far-flung reaches of Malaysia, Alaska, Guatemala, Dominica, Panama and the Amazon. But he quickly discovers that there are no undiscovered places. Modern life, it seems, is creeping its way into even the most remote corners of the world. And Alexander quickly discovers that the lives of First World citizens are as exotic to the indigenous residents of rain forests as theirs are to us. Although it's obvious that Alexander would

like to see these pristine environments protected from exploitation, he's still able to turn a critical eye on the eco-warriors who have devoted their lives to saving the rain forests. Time and again he questions the First World's right to preach to people who live in abject poverty, threatened by disease, malnutrition, floods and the many dangers that lurk in the forests' savage beauty. After all, unlike tourists sporting chic outdoor gear, the residents of rain forests can't leave when they've seen enough. In fact, they think these oddball visitors are a pretty nutty bunch.

AFFORDABLE ALASKA

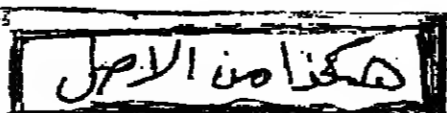
Book Marine Expeditions' eight-day new "Alaska's Inside Passage" itinerary for the May 6 departure and receive a \$500 discount. Sailing aboard the 79-passenger Marine Adventurer, an oceanographic research vessel,

participants will be able to explore parts of the Passage's protected waters that are off-limits to larger ships. The route goes through Queen Charlotte Sound (home to humpback whales), Misty Fjords, Glacier Bay National Park and Mendenhall Glacier. The ship also will call at Haines, Skagway and Juneau. Naturalists will be on board to introduce passengers to the wildlife and natural wonders encountered along the way. Marine Expeditions is offering seven departures between April 29 and June 17. For the May 6 sailing, it is priced at \$995 per person. FYI: Marine Expeditions Inc., 13 Hazelton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5R 2E1; (001) 416/964-9069.

OLYMPIC DAY TRIPS

Finding a vacant hotel room in Atlanta during the Summer Olympics is getting more difficult by

the day, and you'd probably end up blowing your child's college savings on whatever you do find. Leisure Clubs International may have the solution. As the only authorized one-day trip provider for the Olympic Games, the company is taking reservations for a series of single-day excursions. The "Gold" and "Silver" one-day packages are available July 19 through August 4 and depart on Delta Air Lines charter flights from New York (and Newark), Chicago, Detroit, Miami, Dallas, St. Louis and Columbus, Ohio. They include round-trip air transportation, tickets to two events, official Olympic merchandise and ground transportation transfers. All flights depart in the morning and return the same evening. To reach these cities from Jerusalem, contact your travel agent. FYI: Leisure Clubs International, (001) 770/989-6762. Trip Tips is compiled by Alison Ashton, Copley News Service.





July 10 1996

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1996

# The Bear Essentials....

## A Guide to Brown Bear Viewing in Alaska

By Jon K. Tillinghast

On July 20, 1990, a record 68 brown bear were counted, at one sitting, at Alaska's McNeil River falls. Ten McNeil permit holders were the only Alaska tourists to see it. Many of their million colleagues were dissuaded from the show, and shows like it, by two daunting truths of *Ursus arctos*:

1. By the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (or "ADF&G") best guess, there are 30-40,000 brown bear spread over the state's 591,000 square miles. Unfortunately, they are distributed quite unevenly. The state's interior is poor bear country. The interior grizzly, the brown bear's smaller sibling, is a solitary and stressed fellow usually (and perhaps fortunately) seen in the distance. Coastal brown bear, by contrast, grow fat and complacent along the remote salmon spawning streams of Alaska's subarctic coastline. But even some of Alaska's once-prime coastal turf has been compromised by hunting pressure, and that leaves a stretch of Alaska's southwest coast, from Lake Clark National Park in the east to Katmai National Park in the west, as the state's premier bear theater.

2. Bear viewing is done on the bear's schedule. Bears may patronize several streams, miles apart, over the course of the summer, and they cut no slack for the photographer who arrives just following a stream's peak spawning period. Take the example offered by McNeil River Sanctuary Manager Larry Aumiller:

"Think of a lot of overlapping polygons—each one of the range of a single bear. All those polygons intersect at just one point—McNeil River. That's where all these bears will meet in July. But as soon as the run tapers off, all those bears will scatter."

There are, however, ways to turn these truths to advantage. Bush Alaska is rich in folk who make virtue of necessity. It's an art form, and this story visits four artists whose canvasses of Alaska's southwest coast differ in every respect save one:

In each foreground, there stands a mess of bears. The Uptown Bears: Chenik Camp. Chenik camp owner Mike McBride, 52, has earned his seat on the board of the Smithsonian Institute. No one has done more to marry Alaska tourism with the study and conservation of the Alaska wild, and Chenik Camp is proof enough of that.

Chenik is a six-bed camp lying 120 miles across Cook Inlet from the nearest civilization. The first white folk who tried this rough country were eight gold-miners who fought their way down Cook Inlet in 1923, making camp at Chenik lagoon. One died in route; a second was killed by a Chenik bear; and four others were never heard from again.

A tough place, then and now, to run a luxury camp.

McBride won the exclusive hunting concession for the Chenik area in 1976, though hunting was not on McBride's agenda. "Mike knew this was the perfect place for photography," his wife Diane recalls. "But to keep his license, he needed to turn in hunt reports to ADF&G. Well, he started turning in 'photography hunt' reports. Fish & Game said 'no' to that, and he was in agony—he couldn't lose Chenik. We thought

naïve wall tents that now shelter the staff. There are real beds, with sleepy-fat comforters that usually moot the need for the wood stove. Bottles of Australian merlot and Sonoma County chardonnay sit on each cabin's table, and morning coffee is delivered to the cabin porch by staff.

Staff adore Chenik. The five staffers are attentive to a fault; cook gourmet arrays of seafood, fresh breads, salads and local berry desserts; and constantly tinker with the wood sauna—all in a largely successful effort to mask the reality of Chenik's utter isolation.

Here, deep in nowhere, Alaska's wild can be washed down with a good glass of wine, and the hard country that once killed gold miners surrenders to a touch of class.

The Lottery Bears: McNeil River. In the winter of 1995, 1486 people applied for 185 ADF&G permits to see the best brown bear show on earth—the summer bears of the McNeil River Sanctuary. The winners are chosen in a March lottery. Overall, the odds of drawing a permit are 8-1; for peak periods in July, they're higher.

Only 10 permits are issued for each four-day permit period, guaranteeing that the number of travelers will be considerably overwhelmed by the bears.

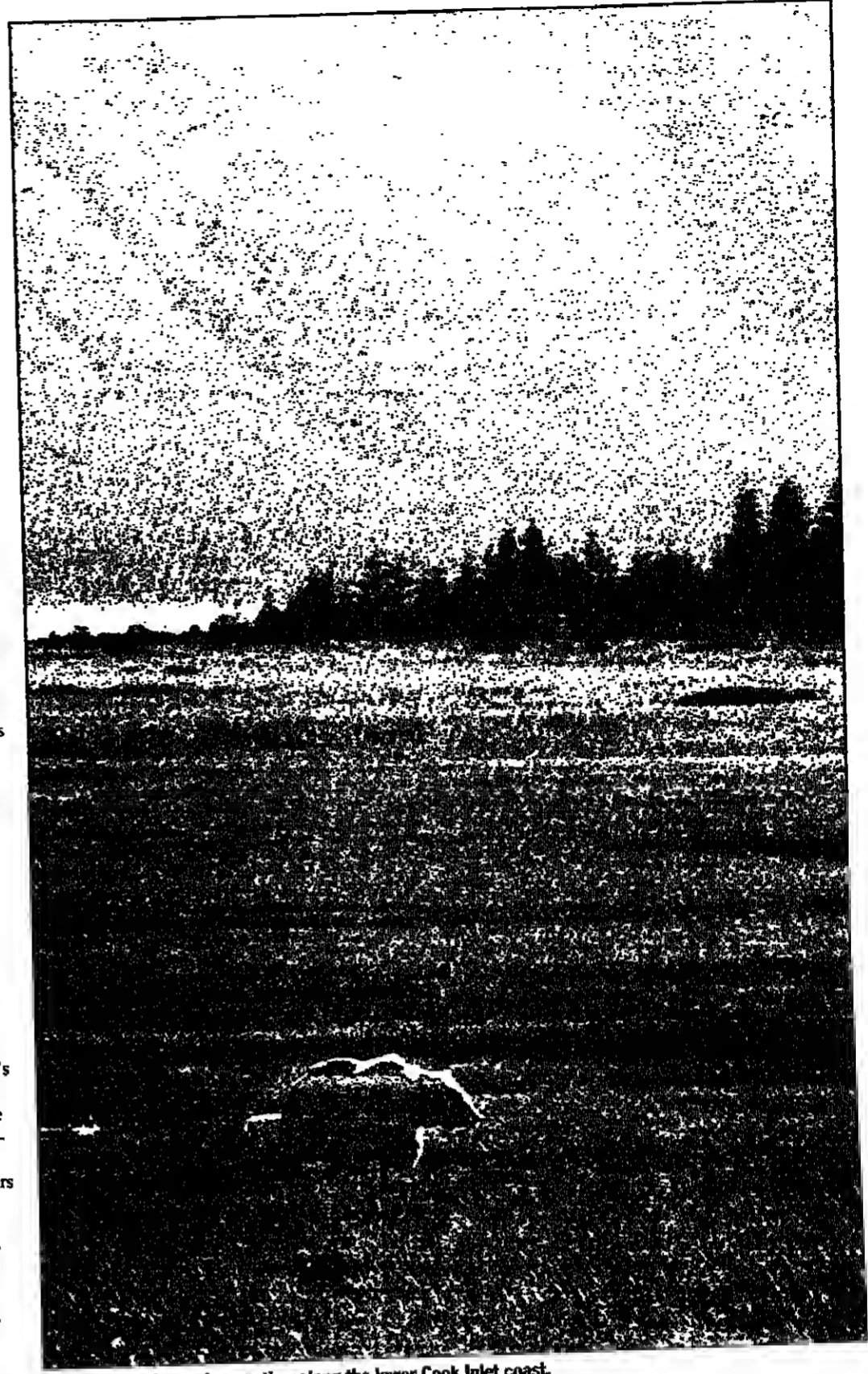
Bear watchers camp two miles from the falls, and they need their own tent and provisions. They're escorted to the bear viewing area each day by ADF&G personnel, and though over 100 bears may use the falls in any given day, there has never been a human/bear incident at McNeil River.

Demand for the sanctuary is insatiable, and there's not much ADF&G can do about it. Virtually all of lower Cook Inlet's bays abound in bear, but none are likely to become new sanctuaries. "The biggest question is funding," said Aumiller. "How do we finance expansion of more McNeil's when most of our dollars come from hunting fees? No, you won't see any expansion soon."

And so, for any given traveler, the McNeil River experience is likely to remain once-in-a-lifetime. In 1987, a McNeil bear named Groucho ate a recorded 90 salmon in one day, and 1,012 over the entire season. McNeil, then, is a place where bears can be greedy.

The rest of us will have to share.

The Tugboat Bears: Aboard the M/V Waters. In 1989, Homer fishermen John Rogers, 45, Mike Yourkowski, 42, bought a 1944, 73-foot tugboat with-



In the spring, brown bear gather along the lower Cook Inlet coast.

### Truth is, nothing defines Alaska's singularity like the brown bear.

about a lawyer, but then thankfully, the law changed."

Today, ADF&G and the McBrides are something of joint ventures. Chenik sits in the McNeil River Game Refuge, and the McBrides are caretakers. Chenik is an integral part of the McNeil bear ecosystem, and so, as Diane said, "ADF&G is pretty entrenched here. They've been good neighbors, and so have we."

From Chenik, the McBrides and their staff monitor the two dozen bear that frequent the Chenik River, a mere 1/3-mile from the camp, from late June to late July. On a bluff above the river's falls is a bear viewing area, though in-season bears are likely to be found anywhere, anytime.

Given its setting, Chenik Camp is implausibly gentrified. For all its rough silhouette, Chenik's summer landscape is benign. The soft tundra makes effortless hiking, and come July it turns a riot of color as wild iris, azaleas, geranium, and chocolate lilies bloom. The short walk to the bears is no hardship.

Nor is the return to camp unwelcome. There are three precious wood cabins here, replacing the origi-

nal firm notion of what to do with it. The boat was used for damage-assessment research following the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill, and for the long run, its owners hoped that the tug might make a fishing tender.

By 1993, however, the research had dried up, and commercial fishing had slowed. The Waters needed a job.

The Waters' research assignment had been to cruise the virgin coastline of recently-expanded Katmai National Park. And while four years of shuttling National Park Service researchers into these bear-thick estuaries found no damage from the spill, it did tutor the Waters' crew in the art of escorting people among a crowd of bears.

That, in turn, made the tug's next niche rather apparent: fly civilians across Cook Inlet from Homer for a few days, and show them the bears.

The Waters, 18-feet across the beam, was tailor made for the disagreeable waters of Shelikof Strait, and the strait's deep bays provided fine anchorage. From May 15 to September 15, the tug now prowls three adjacent bays—Kafila, Kukak and Hallo—all within Katmai National Park, and all otherwise unvisited, save an occasional commercial fishing boat or fishtrawler.

This is a primordial coast that overwhelms the occasional human eye, with the raw peaks of the Aleutian Range tumbling down to the rough North Pacific. Inside the sheltered bays, rough-hewn islands alight with puffins, cormorants and kittiwakes. It's the sheltered bays, rough-hewn islands alight with puffins, cormorants and kittiwakes. It's the secret side of Katmai National Park that tourists don't see, and probably don't know is there.

The tug's mobility virtually guarantees success, because it's always prime time somewhere in the vessel's range. The Waters catches the sedge-eating bears in the spring and the salmon catchers all summer. It visits the Hallo Bay bears digging for razor clams. Up

to six guests are shuttled to shore in the tug's skiffs for virtually non-stop intercourse with the local brunns. There are no viewing platforms in these bays; no regimenting bear police; and proximity is very much an ad hoc decision, influenced by escape routes and the apparent disposition of the bears in question.

And nothing has ever gone wrong.

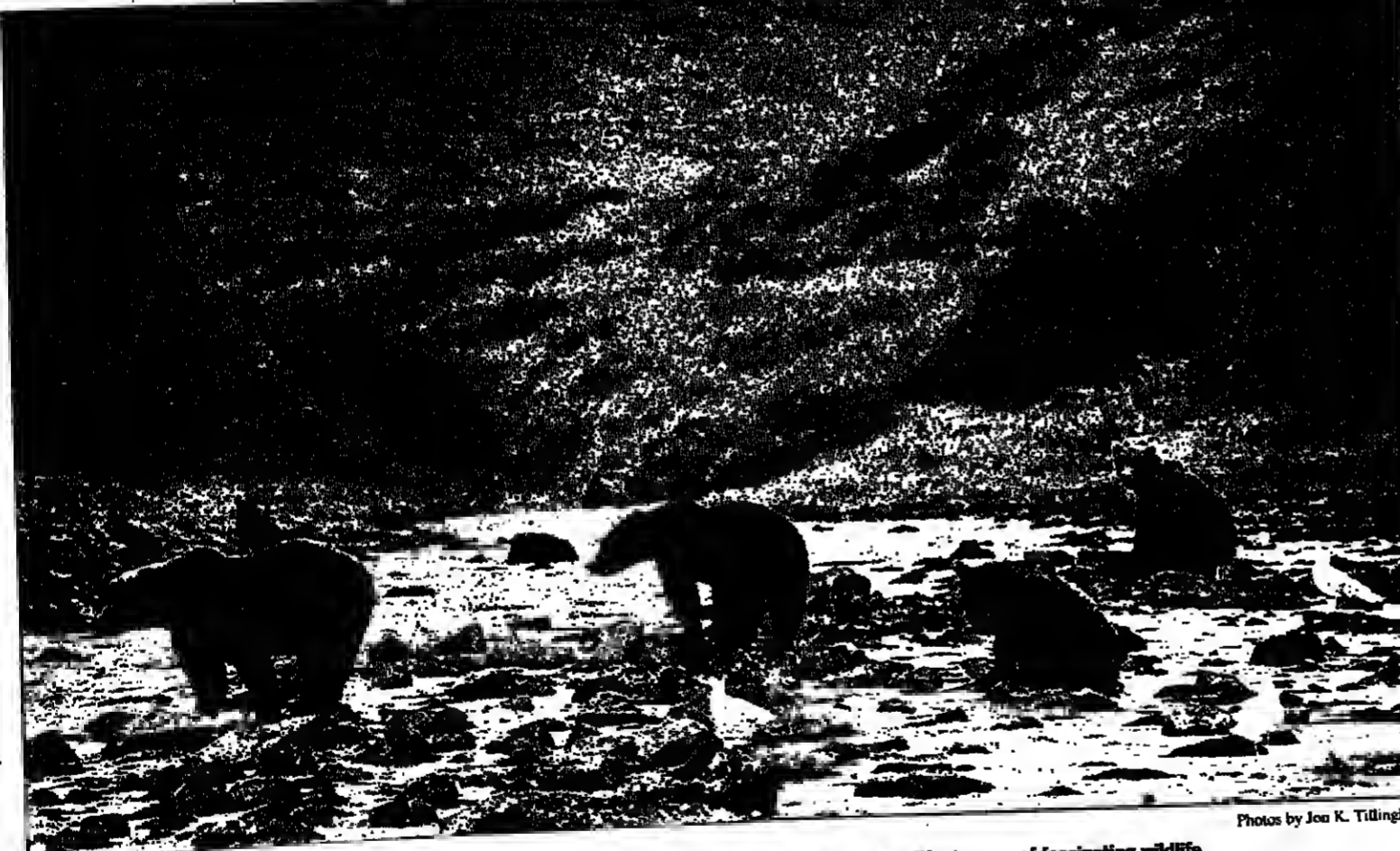
The Waters three staterooms are cramped, of course, but this is not an indoor cruise. The three bays are two-hour's sailing apart, which is done during the harsh mid-day light. Each morning and evening always find the tug swamly anchored within a five-minute skiff ride off, in all likelihood, at least a dozen bears.

Rogers and Yourkowski will not grow fat from this enterprise. "It's a logistical nightmare," Rogers noted. "The remoteness, the weather—no, brown bear viewing is not something that's going to grow quickly out here," Rogers said.

Rogers is probably right, and so, for the foreseeable future, the Waters passengers will probably have the bears, and perhaps the most breath-stealing coastline in the national park system, pretty much to themselves.

The Autumn Bears: Battle River Wilderness Retreat. From the arrival float plane's cockpit, Battle River reminds one of a subarctic research outpost—a 20-by-20 green tarpaper kitchen, two plywood cabins and a radio antenna. That scene proves the first clause of one visitor's observation about Battle—one that Man Conway has scrawled on the mess walls: "Battle: so little when you arrive, but so big when you leave."

Battle, indeed, grows larger each passing moment. Tucked in a rolling tundra valley in the interior of Katmai National Park, Battle commands a swath of real estate that stretches from the diamond-clear waters of Battle Lake and Battle River at the camp's foot, to the tops of distant mountain passes. It's all the private playground of the camp's 4-guests—some-



Several brown bear gather along a stream in Kafila Bay, Katmai National Park, Alaska. They co-exist with an array of fascinating wildlife.

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Cliff-top setting of Ol Malo in Kenya provides guests an unobstructed view of a game animals' watering hole as well as a swimming pool.

Photo courtesy of the Bush Homes of East Africa

# Estates Offer An "Out Of Africa" Experience

By Mike Steere  
Universal Press Syndicate

"I had a farm in Africa, at the foot of the Ngong Hills."

The words of Isak Dinesen (nom de plume of Baroness Karen Blixen), opening her memoir of life in colonial Kenya, *Out Of Africa*, evoke a dream of knowing East Africa as home.

On some of the remaining European-owned farms and ranches in Kenya, it is still possible to experience the intimacy with Africa known by settlers of Dinesen's generation.

Indeed, one might bed down in a house owned by descendants of Dinesen's neighbors in a roomful of

the author's furniture and wake up with a giraffe at the window.

A former owner of Giraffe Manor got the furniture from the writer when she moved back to her native Denmark in 1932. Dinesen lived five miles away and was then the closest European to the manor.

The once-isolated manor, now a 120-acre preserve for a breeding population of endangered Rothschild giraffes, is just eight miles from downtown Nairobi. It is the most city-like of a recently fortified group of settler farms and ranches across Kenya that offer home stays that include a variety of outdoor adventures, from soft to challenging.

Far more remote than Giraffe Manor, but at least as posh, is Ol Malo, a 5,000-acre ranch and game sanctuary in Kenya's North East District. There, guests go animal-watching on camels and luxuriate in cliff-top cottages overlooking a watering hole used by game. They also have their own "watering holes"—a

swimming pool and baths with a view in the cottages.

By opening their homes, landowners offer a familial, intimate experience of Kenya. Owners, some of them third- or fourth-generation African-born Europeans, preside at meals and act as bush guides on all-day outdoor adventures.

Accommodations range from rooms to grand British-style estates, such as Giraffe Manor, to smaller guest houses and thatched-roof cottages and tent camps near farm and ranch complexes.

Some of the quarters are downright baronial, and home-stays often provide more freedom to roam and greater physical challenges, such as horseback rides and long hikes, than vehicle-borne group safaris.

The privacy and lack of regulations on private property is in sharp contrast to some group trips in heavily visited national parks, where movement away from vehicles and camp is restricted.

Whatever the activities, group size is usually small

because most of the homes have only a few rooms open to guests. Tent camps are also small.

An Atlanta-based company, Bush Homes of East Africa, has marketed Kenyan adventures based on series of home stays. Some of the 15 settlers' farms represented by the company have accommodated paying guests for years, but others are recent entries in the tourism game.

Abercrombie & Kent International offers stays in a few of the Kenyan properties represented by Bush Homes. The company has also added estates in South Africa and Zimbabwe to its catalog trips and components of customized adventures.

The innovation created by Bush Homes, according to founder Phil Osborne, is offering central bookings and packaging custom trips built entirely around staying in a number of homes.

With properties next to Masai Mara Game Reserve and Tsavo National Park, near wildlands such as Samburu National Reserve, as well as on Indian Ocean beaches, a bush homes tour can be a complete experience of natural and cultural Kenya.

Osborne says his company concentrates on Kenya because the country has the most settlers' holdings in East Africa.

Thousands of Europeans left the country after the Mau Mau Rebellion, a nationalist uprising in the 1950s. After independence in the 1960s, the government promoted the breakup of European-owned farms and ranches. But some 100 settler-owned properties survive.

Settler families are increasingly interested in tourism to get more hard cash out of land that is often lean and harsh, Osborne says.

For the Reverend John Cromartie, who stayed with his wife at Lewa Downs Ranch in the Northern Frontier District, the legacy of endurance was part of the charm.

"It was delightful to meet people who have chosen to stay, though a lot of difficulties and tumultuous times," Cromartie, an Atlanta, Georgia, Methodist minister, says.

An Africa-lover who likes his trips challenging—he made two ascents of Kilimanjaro two years running—Cromartie used the ranch as an R&R spot between the tough stuff. He, his wife and family have also stayed in tent camps on ranches and camped out on private property with a guide and cook. Bush Homes coordinated these adventures.

He, like others who have experienced home stays and group trips, found his time on private holdings offered a more personal contact with the land and wildlife.

All of Africa's "Big Five"—lions, leopards, elephants, rhino and Cape buffalo—roam Lewa Downs. Concentrations of animals were smaller than those seen in big-name national preserves, but Cromartie says that freedom of movement and the isolation more than compensated.

Group-trip visits to the Serengeti Plain and other famous wildlife-watching areas can, Cromartie says, seem "more like Busch Gardens in Florida than a real game preserve."

"This [Lewa Downs] is one of the places where

you can get really close to rhinos," he says.

While staying at the ranch he met Anna Merz, a crusader for the preservation of the endangered black rhino. Lewa Downs' 61,000 acres lie within the Ngari Sergeti Rhino Sanctuary, which Merz founded.

Mike Ivey, an Atlanta mortgage banker, did a 17-day home-stay tour this year, part of which he spent at Lewa Ranch. He says his 1995 trip, compared to a 1994 group safari, was an adventure in freedom.

On game-watching drives, Bill Craig, whose grandfather founded Lewa Downs, let Ivey take the wheel when he felt like it. Ivey was even allowed to make short unescorted drives with fellow-guests.

Ivey says that longstanding contacts between settler families and native Kenyans made for more intimate cultural contact in villages less-visited by tourists.

He built in a break from intensive game-viewing at the posh Deloraine Estate, which has a celebrated string of polo ponies, and then wound down on the Indian Ocean beach at Takungu House, about 30 miles north of Mombasa.

After vegging out, Ivey and his traveling companions snorkled and went scuba diving, then went on a day-cruise aboard a ketch belonging to Charlotte and

**By opening their homes, landowners offer a familial, intimate experience of Kenya. Owners preside at meals and act as bush guides on all-day outdoor adventures.**

Phil Mason, who own a boat yard as well as the Arab-style beach house, which has three guest bedrooms.

Ivey's 17-day Kenyan adventure cost about \$5,000, airfare included, which is comparable to many non-custom group trips.

Ivey's daily land costs were about \$250, but Osborne says it's safer to plan on spending about \$300-\$350 a day, which allows for air transfers, instead of highway travel, and other upgrades. This is still less than high-end safaris, which can cost \$500 per person daily.

But price arithmetic can not do justice to an equation as complicated, and personal, as an African adventure. Those who crave independence and privacy can find more of what they want on home stays.

As Cromartie says, "I find Africa a very soulful experience. I don't want to be out with hordes of other people."

## CONTACTS

—Bush Homes of East Africa, 1786-A Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30345; (001) 404/325-5088.

—Abercrombie & Kent, Suite 212, 1520 Kensington Road, Oak Brook, Illinois 60521-2141; (001) 708/954-2944.

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## Bear Facts for Visits

### Chenik Camp

Fly to Homer, Alaska, on Alaska Airlines' commuter airline, ERA Aviation, and take a one-hour float plane flight—the price of which is included in Chenik's rates—on Kachemak Air.

Guests arrive on Thursday, and depart on Monday. Arrivals and departures are times to high tide. The rate is \$2,500 per person.

Chenik has a 10-week season, beginning in mid-June. Its peak period is July.

Contact Mike and Diane McBride at Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, China Foot Bay, Box 956, Homer, Alaska 99603; (001) 907/235-8910.

### McNeil River Sanctuary

Applications for a McNeil River permit can be obtained from, and submitted to, ADF&G beginning on January 1 of the year you would like to go. Write to: ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518-1599.

With 8-1 odds, at best, for obtaining a McNeil River permit, consider applying for a "standby" permit, which offers 3-1 odds. It gets you to the McNeil campground, and entitles you to the McNeil River falls if a regular permittee doesn't show up.

There is an application fee and a permit fee. The permit fees are halved for standbys.

For transportation information write Kachemak Air Service, Box 1769, Homer, Alaska 99606-1769; (001) 907/235-8924.

### Battle River Wilderness Retreat

There is no pre-set length to a Battle stay, though at least three days are recommended. Battles \$1,500 per person, for three days air fare from Anchorage, Alaska, lodging, meals and private guiding. Contact: Battle River Wilderness Retreat, 2740 Huntington Road, Sacramento, California 95864; (001) 916/488-7730.

## Bear Essentials From page 3

thing akin to an exclusive charter of a national park. Thus, while the arriving visitor may at first seem disadvantaged, he quickly feels almost obscenely indulged by the wilderness bequeathed to him alone.

The camp is leased and managed by Californian and long-time Katmai guide Tim Conway, 43, and is tended these days by brother Matt, 45. When the onetime bear hunting camp was closed by 1985, Conway entreated its owner for a chance to make a go of the place.

It was all done out of love for this humble outpost—nobody profits by flying in groceries and supplies 250 miles from Anchorage for maybe three guests. But the logic of all it becomes plain when one squats on the banks or arguably the clearest river in the state, and surveys the horizons of one of solitary man's last outposts.

Annually, it is also the last stop for Katmai's bears. The Battle River is one of the final spawning grounds for the sockeye salmon that pour into Katmai from Bristol Bay. The salmon begin arriving in late August, and the bears follow. By Labor Day, simply squatting on the lawn at camp will usually yield 10-15 different bears.

Battle is a place for uncontrived bear viewing. "We do safe, close-contact photography here," Matt said.

Ironically, the Conways often find themselves eluding the camp during peak bear season, because Alaska tourists shun September. The tourists are fools. In September, the days are often clear and crisp; the bugs have died in the first frost; and the tundra is painted in purple, pink and orange. Battle is an obscure camp that shines during an obscure season, and in that it finds its ultimate charm.

Even the small camp itself acquires itself, and its sense of home settles in every visitor's heart.

The line between guest and staff vanishes at the first meal, and the barbecued steaks, endless pancakes and blueberry surprise melts the fear of hardship that shrouds the arrival.

Battle, in sum, is the good life, and the 1000 pound blond bear diving for blood-red sockeye across the bank becomes almost an afterthought. There are mountains everywhere, and Alaska

holds no monopoly on glaciers. Caribou are just arctic deer. Truth is, nothing defines Alaska's singularity like the brown bear, and as Aumiller, who is no Polyanna, reassures us: "Overall, Alaska's bears are doing pretty well."

There is, of course, much more to Alaska—human and natural—than brown bears. The best brown bear picture isn't full frame. The canvass

needs a background, specially painted to meet the different dreams of different travelers. And there is no better gallery anywhere in that regard than that offered by the good folk along Alaska's bear coast.

Jon K. Tillinghast is an Alaska-based freelance writer.



Photo courtesy of the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council

Visitors can view bears in their natural habitat in Katmai National Park and Reserve in southwest Alaska.

# Locking out the busybody

DEAR RUTHIE  
RUTHIE BLUM



DEAR Ruthie,  
Visiting Jerusalem for a year, my wife and I rented a furnished apartment. During the early months of our tenancy, our landlady would frequently come to access some of her belongings, kept in a locked room of the apartment. This she did when we were home, and on other occasions while we were out. At the suggestion of some Israeli friends, we changed the lock, so as to maintain our privacy. Our landlady has now demanded that we give her a key. Our lease makes no mention of any obligation on our part to provide a key for the owner (nor any prohibition on changing the locks). We are quite willing to provide access for reasonable inspections, but is there some general law which requires that we give her a key, or are we within our rights to withhold it? If we must give her a key, are there any measures we can take to help us maintain our privacy?  
Locking Out the Landlady  
Jerusalem

Dear LOL,  
For legal advice, you'll have to contact a lawyer.  
But, regardless of the statutory status of your landlady, her lack of common courtesy needs addressing. Even if you are eventually forced to give the "busybody" a key to the castle, she should be told in no uncertain terms to coordinate her visits in advance.  
In view of the fact that she has not felt uneasy about invading your privacy before, however, she is not likely to undergo a miraculous transformation now.  
You could resort to threats of finding another apartment. If the terms of your contract prevent you from taking such action, lock up valuables in a cupboard, and bid your time until the end of your stay.  
Meanwhile, try leaving her little notes in strategically located places. This might shame her into staying away.

Dear Ruthie,  
I have an elderly great-uncle - very wealthy - who was diagnosed with cancer a few months ago. I have always been fond of this relative, and over the years have visit-

ed him many times. He has no family of his own, and my brother and I are his only living relatives. My brother, who has never taken the slightest interest in our uncle, suddenly has become an "indispensable" companion. Unfortunately, I am sure that he is just "sucking up" in order to be remembered in our uncle's will. I hinted as much to my brother, but he refuses to discuss it. Should I go behind his back and speak to my uncle about it?  
Will Woeful  
Denver, Colorado

Dear WW,  
First examine your motivation - both in relation to your brother and in relation to your uncle - for wishing to interfere.  
Are you afraid of being upstaged by your sibling? Are monetary considerations playing a role in your own concern for your uncle? Or do you have a dying man's best interests at heart? Whatever your introspection reveals, you're probably better off steering clear of intervention.

It is your brother's prerogative to "suck up" to a rich man in his final hour. If the "victim" cannot recognize the ploy for what it is, that is his prerogative.  
For your own peace of mind - including if it entails possible forfeiting or sharing of inheritance money - you will be better off emotionally if you remain consistent in the affection you have displayed to your relative all along.  
Any other course of action is liable to stir an unnecessary storm. And will not necessarily lead to the result you desire.

Dear Ruthie,  
I'm a light sleeper, and my husband snores. I'm always hot at night, and my husband sleeps under a heavy quilt. How can I ever get a good night's sleep?  
Pooped Turner  
Chicago, Illinois

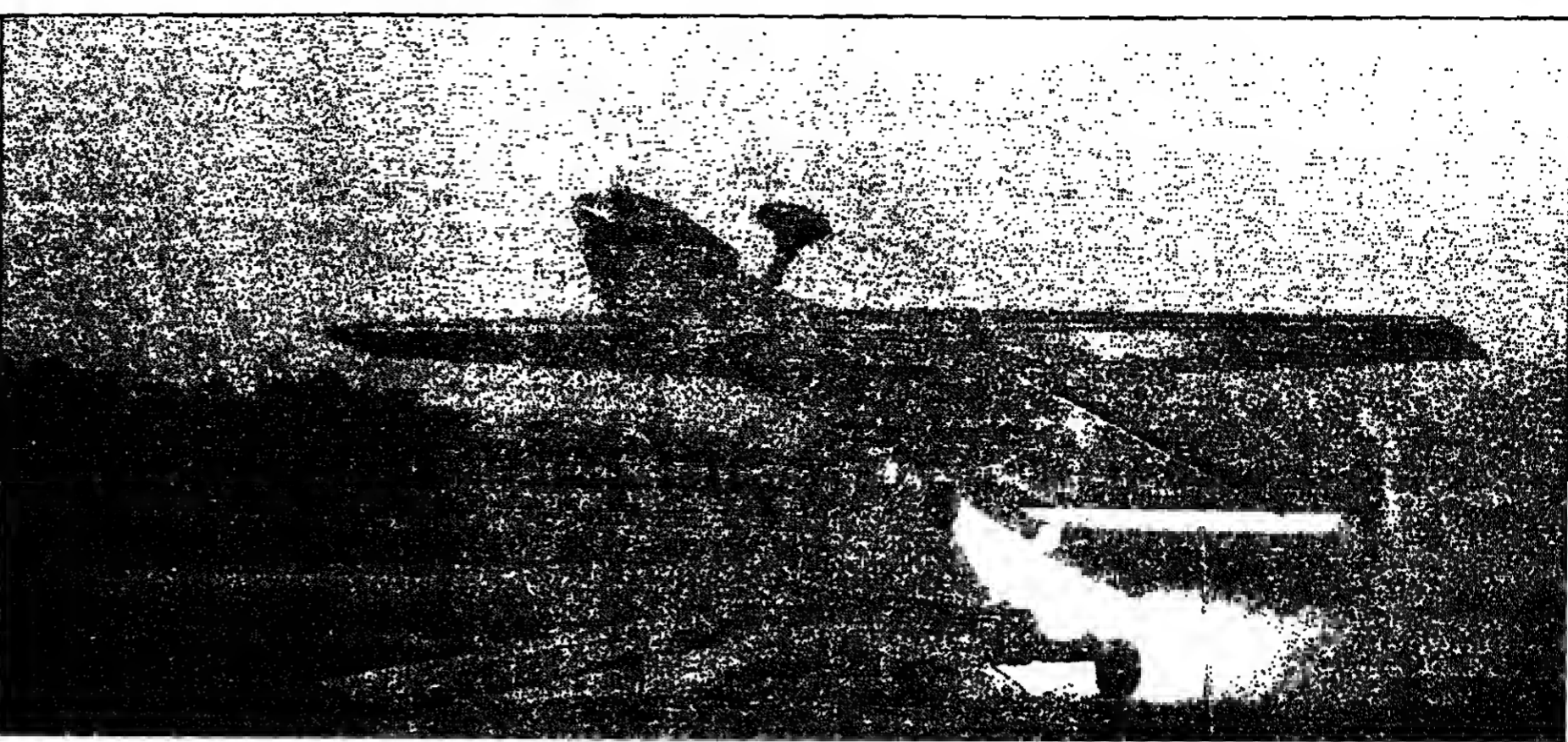
Dear PP,  
Ear-plugs, separate blankets, and the conviction that marriage to this man is what you generally want, during "daytime" waking hours.

Letters should be addressed to: Dear Ruthie, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@post.co.il (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter but will answer every letter received.)

# US declassifies war work of code-breakers

THE release of more than a million pages of newly declassified documents provided the public with a rare chance to look this month at the work of US code-breakers through two world wars.  
Much of the work shows columns of figures used in the massive effort to break German and Japanese codes, often with remarkable success.  
Perhaps the most significant breakthrough discussed in the documents is the Zimmermann telegram, which was intercepted and decoded by British naval intelligence in 1917 and was a major factor in US entry into World War I.  
The telegram was sent on January 16, 1917, by Alfred Zimmermann, the German foreign minister, to a German official in Mexico City.  
At the time, the United States was remaining neutral in the war raging in Europe.  
In a classified account written in 1958, William Friedman, the war department's chief cryptanalyst, called its interception and decoding "the most important of all time, either in war or peace."  
Zimmermann informed the German minister in Mexico that the government was about to undertake unrestricted submarine warfare against shipping bound for England and France. He also directed the minister to sound out Mexican authorities on the prospects for Mexico's allying itself with Germany against the US.  
Mexico's benefit from such an alliance, suggested Zimmermann, would be regaining control over Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.  
Publication of the telegram caused a furor in the US. President Wilson broke diplomatic relations with Germany and within months the US entered the war on the side of Britain and France.  
Friedman said code-breakers were aided by the fact that Germany was forced by its isolated position to resort to wireless communication, preventing changes of the code books.  
More typical was the handwritten note dated April 3, 1943, from the military attaché in the US embassy

in Madrid, reporting that the Germans in that neutral capital were "operating a clandestine radio station in Madrid during the past two months."  
Another report said "a carrier pigeon in a condition of exhaustion was found in Ozone Park, Long Island, on January 29, 1942. This pigeon has a message attached to its leg which reads as follows:  
"Je aime vous me petit dovel fri 30 - 119 degrees north - 35 degrees west - 3 oil (or ocl) P - 23 - QX - 5369 (last digit may be 4). The message contained a German swastika."  
The message - "I love you, my little dove" - was not translated. Attached to the report was a handwritten note saying "think it has something to do with the location of a ship."  
THE ABILITY of Allied intelligence to penetrate the inner councils of the Nazi regime was illustrated by a report on "The Schornsteinfeger Project."  
"In June 1943 a conference was apparently called in Berlin... at the instigation of Adm. [Karl] Doenitz for the purpose of presenting the problem of protecting U Boats against allied radar," said the report.  
It noted that the project was named "Schornsteinfeger" or Chimney Sweep.  
The intelligence report said the meeting discussed various possible techniques for developing what would have amounted to radar-eluding stealth submarines.  
They did not always get it right. A 1943 Office of Strategic Services assessment of China described Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek as having "unrivaled personal loyalty" and as "the strongest integrating force in Chinese political life."  
Within six years, the communist forces led by Mao Tse-tung had taken control and Chiang had fled to Taiwan.  
Another set of documents discusses the use of Navaho Indians by the US Marine Corps during the Second World War to send and receive radio messages in their language to keep the Japanese from understanding intercepted communications.  
(AP, Reuters)



The Pentagon spent \$667 million for seven Hunter systems and their logistic supports. France is now interested in the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

# IAI tries to bounce back after US decision on Hunter

## IAI says it learned the lessons from its mistakes on the Hunter and is now working on plans for other UAVs, Steve Rodan writes

SIX years ago, Israel Aircraft Industries unveiled a project that the company believed would bring it into the promised land of milk and profit. The wonder product was a two-engine unmanned airplane that could travel dozens of kilometers into enemy territory and send back pictures of troop deployment, weapon positions, anything else on the ground.  
The plane was called Hunter. It was small, light, and could stay up in the air for hours. The worst the enemy could do was shoot it down. There would be no pilot to take prisoner. The Pentagon was hooked.  
Earlier this year, the dream faded. The Hunter, after several poor performances and bureaucratic wrangling within the Pentagon, was canceled. All in all, the US Army obtained only a handful of Hunters.  
But the story doesn't end there. IAI has found out that Hunter, despite the Pentagon's decision, has retained an international appeal. In other words, the company's market for unmanned aerial vehicles doesn't end with the US.  
IAI executives say Hunter is being discovered in other areas of the world, as well as being used currently, along with other UAVs, in Operation Grapes of Wrath. France, for example, has signed a contract for the purchase of the system, which industry sources say is small, less than \$50 million. But the potential is in the hundreds of millions of dollars.  
Moreover, IAI is negotiating the sale of Hunter with several unnamed countries in East Asia. In addition, IAI is bidding to sell a relative of Hunter to Britain.  
"We have a very good system and even a country as particular as France believes that Hunter is superior to what it has seen," an IAI executive says.

Company executives say IAI's Malat division had \$100 million in sales in 1995 and it expects that figure to grow this year despite the termination of Hunter. In all, the Pentagon spent \$667 million for seven Hunter systems and their logistic supports.  
Aharon Klieiman, a political science professor at Tel Aviv University whose expertise is the arms market, says that IAI's decision to promote its UAVs is an intelligence move.  
"In terms of the 21st Century, UAVs comprise one of the most promising areas," he says. "It's a market that is growing, particularly in East Asia."  
A UAV system is composed of the air vehicle, fixed wing airframes made of light-weight material and fitted with television cameras and communications relays. Directing the UAV is a ground station, which tracks, controls, and communicates with the vehicle.  
IAI executives have reviewed the six-year program and believe they won't make the same mistakes next time. Today, they say they better understand the new requirements of the US military as well as of running a major program.  
Hunter was a UAV pioneer. Unlike its predecessors, it is big, 7 meters long with a 9.5 meter wingspan. It has a maximum range of 125 kilometers and can fly at an altitude of 5,000 meters and remain in the air for eight hours.  
IAI executives, realizing that they need an American contractor with a reputation in the Pentagon, chose one of the biggest in US,

program was being mismanaged. The problems were compounded by technical difficulties, usual in development program but now amplified because of the constant carping.  
Sources both at IAI and TRW say they eventually overcame their misunderstandings. Over the last 18 months, they say, the program was managed smoothly and with an agreement on strategy. In all, the Hunter flew 4,600 hours.  
BUT BY THAT time, the Pentagon seemed to have lost its patience with Hunter. In March 1995, the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, issued a report critical of Hunter.  
The GAO cited a series of crashes and performance problems in the program. Its conclusion was that Hunter was not logistically supportable.  
Last October, the Pentagon agreed. A Pentagon committee headed by Defense Department weapons procurement chief Paul Kaminski recommended that Hunter be terminated.  
Industry experts say the Pentagon's decision reflects a new approach toward acquisition, in which it feels no compunction over switching contractors during a development program.  
But the Pentagon decided that another UAV might be able to do the job better than Hunter. For at least the next year, the Pentagon decided to speed investment in the Predator, developed by General Atomics Aeronautics, with a range of 300 kilometers and 40 hours' flying time.

For its part, IAI is drawing lessons from the Hunter program in the US. One is the need for excellent management and coordination, particularly in dealing with a huge bureaucracy like the Pentagon.  
Another is the need to shorten the research and development period. In 1989, Hunter was alone in its field as a short-range UAV compatible with providing intelligence on the corps level. Today, there are several models, some of them cheaper than the \$30 million price tag of the Hunter system.  
"Six years is simply too long to maintain a development program in the US given the new accent on the fast-track approach to production," an IAI source says.  
IAI executives, however, hold great promise for its UAV division. The company has developed several models. Its latest is the Eye-View, a close-range tactical UAV intended for field troops at the front lines.  
Executives say Eye-View is the result of its lessons from the Hunter program. At 90 kilograms and with a 4-meter wingspan, Eye-View is much smaller and lighter than Hunter. It is also less than a quarter the price.  
Moreover, IAI executives are hoping to return to the Pentagon with the Eye-View. Already, the company is developing a larger model that would be compatible for both military and civilian use.  
But the competition will be tougher than it was in 1989.  
Klieiman, however, cites Israel's 20 years of experience in UAVs. IAI alone has seven models of UAVs.  
"Israel has a lead in the field," Klieiman says. "If it could maintain that lead, it will continue to have a big advantage in anything regarding UAVs."

# GAME TIME

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